

# The New Day Children's Centre Newsletter

## News from Ryton



**After a happy and successful 2009, this year is shaping up to be an even more exciting time for NDCC. Thanks to your monthly contribution, we are continuing to support 53 children in Bahir Dar, giving them the help they need to complete their education, and to face the future with hope.**

As we head into February (already!), there are several bits of news that we would like to share with our supporters here in the UK.

### New member of staff

Claire Stancliffe was awarded a Vodafone World of Difference UK grant, which is allowing her to work for the charity full time for the next two months. Having already volunteered at the Centre in 2008, making a promotional DVD for NDCC, Claire will now be working from Ryton Comprehensive School to raise funds and awareness in the community. She is very excited about her new role, and has already set to work liaising with local primary schools and planning a new website. You can follow her progress at <http://worldofdifference.vodafone.co.uk/uk/claire-stancliffe/>.

### Volunteers

There are currently three **volunteers** at the Centre.

Lin Mellor, a retired university lecturer, is working with the children to improve their English and maths skills, and will be with them until March. You can find a short account of her first impressions overleaf.

Barbara Budd and Mary Fay arrived on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and are both retired GPs. Over the next month, they will be developing a simple health education programme which will teach the students about how to look after themselves and follow a healthy lifestyle, as well as increasing awareness amongst staff about health risks and how to spot warning signs of common illnesses.

### Exciting plans

We are very pleased with the progress made by NDCC over the last four years, but are aware that there are many more children in the community who could use our help. As you may know, our premises in Bahir Dar are currently rented. We hope that by purchasing a dedicated plot of land, we can remove the significant monthly outgoing of rent and create a purpose built centre that will accommodate up to 120 kids. On the same land, we plan to build an **IT training centre** that will offer internationally recognised qualifications to the local community, generating an income for NDCC and contributing towards our goal of self-sufficiency. Students from the Children's Centre, too, will have the opportunity to develop their IT skills along with the extra English and maths tuition that they already receive, maximising their chances of a successful future upon completion of their schooling.

Over the coming months, we will be working very hard to raise the funds necessary to finance this project. Look out for more information about the project itself, our fundraising activities and how you can help on our website.

### New Day Festival

Plans for this year's summer festival are now underway. An afternoon of stalls, performances and activities will be followed by an evening of music from local bands, all to raise money for NDCC. Taking place on **3<sup>rd</sup> July**, it's an event not to be missed – save the date!

If you would like to be involved with the Festival, or with any of our fundraising activities, get in touch at [info@ryton2ethiopia.org](mailto:info@ryton2ethiopia.org).

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy new year, and to thank you once again for your continued support in 2010.**

NDCC